

Application No. 09/759,593
Response dated 13 July 2004
Reply to Communication of 16 June 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A device for use with a compartment having a wall member, said compartment housing beverage ingredients, said device comprising:

means for removing contaminants from a liquid prior to contacting the ingredients, said means for removing contaminants comprising a filter medium and a supporting structure, wherein said means for removing contaminants is capable of being releasably supported upon said the wall member of said the compartment and is contained within the compartment while, ~~wherein said means for removing means contaminants~~ is sufficiently spaced above and separated from said the ingredients.

Claim 2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said means for removing comprises a wall defining a periphery of said means for removing.

Claim 3. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein said wall is adapted to hold said liquid within said means for removing.

Claim 4. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said means for removing comprises a plurality of outwardly extending protrusions adapted to be releasably supported upon said wall member.

Claim 5. (Original) The device of claim 4, wherein said protrusions are flexibly connected to said means for removing.

Claim 6. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said means for removing comprises a handle.

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Claim 7. (Original) The device of claim 6, wherein said handle is releasably attached to said means for removing.

Claim 8. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said means for removing comprises a filtration medium.

Claim 9. (Original) The device of claim 8, wherein said filtration medium is at least one material selected from the group consisting of: metallic mesh screen, polymeric nonwoven material, glass fiber, microporous membrane, paper, iodinated resin, activated carbon, activated alumina, alumina-silicates, ion-exchange resins, manganese oxides, iron oxides, zeolite, and combinations thereof.

Claim 10. (Original) The device of claim 8, wherein said means for removing further comprises a supporting arm adapted to support said filtration medium.

Claim 11. (Original) The device of claim 10, wherein said supporting arm is further adapted to be used as a handle for said means for removing.

Claim 12. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said means for removing comprises a 20 filtration medium and a supporting structure.

Claim 13. (Original) The device of claim 12, wherein said filtration medium is heat sealed to said supporting structure.

Claim 14. (Original) The device of claim 12, wherein said supporting structure is insert molded around said filtration medium.

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- Claim 15. (Withdrawn) A method comprising:
supporting a means for removing contaminants from a liquid in contact with
a wall member of a compartment having beverage ingredients, wherein said means
for removing is separated from said ingredients; and
passing said liquid
- Claim 16. (Withdrawn) A system comprising:
means for removing contaminants from a liquid; and
a compartment having beverage ingredients,
wherein said means for removing is adapted to be releasably supported about the
interior of said compartment, and wherein said removing means is separated from
said ingredients.
- Claim 17. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said means for removing is
supported at a position in said compartment so that said means for removing does not
come into contact with said ingredients.
- Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said means for
removing is supported above the ingredients.
- Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said means for
removing is supported at a position so as to remove contaminants from the liquid before
the liquid contacts said ingredients.
- Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said means for
removing is supported so as to be separated from said liquid after said liquid has come in
contact with said ingredients.

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Claim 21. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said means for removing is supported so that said liquid contacts said removing means only prior to said liquid coming into contact with said ingredients.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said means for removing is supported so that said liquid does not contact said means for removing after said liquid has contacted said ingredients.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the liquid is water and said means for removing removes said contaminants from the water.

Claim 24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said means for removing is supported at a position in said compartment so that said means for removing does not come into contact with said ingredients.

Claim 25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said means for removing is supported above the ingredients.

Claim 26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said means for removing is supported at a position so as to remove contaminants from the liquid before the liquid contacts said ingredients.

Claim 27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said means for removing is supported so as to be separated from said liquid after said liquid has come into contact with said ingredients.

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Claim 28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said means for removing is supported so that said liquid contacts said means for removing only prior to said liquid contacting said ingredients.

Claim 29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said means for removing is supported so that said liquid does not contact said means for removing after said liquid has contacted said ingredients.

Claim 30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein the liquid is water and said means for removing removes said contaminants from the water.

Claim 31. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 16, wherein said means for removing is supported at a position in said compartment so that said means for removing does not come into contact with said ingredients.

Claim 32. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 16, wherein said means for removing is supported above the ingredients.

Claim 33. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 16, wherein said means for removing is supported at a position so as to remove contaminants from the liquid before the liquid contacts said ingredients.

Claim 34. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 16, wherein said means for removing is supported so as to be separated from said liquid after said liquid has come into contact with said ingredients.

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Claim 35. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 16, wherein said means for removing is supported so that said liquid contacts said means for removing only prior to said liquid contacting said ingredients.

Claim 36. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 16, wherein said means for removing is supported so that said liquid does not contact said means for removing after said liquid has contacted said ingredients.

Claim 37. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 16, wherein the liquid is water and said means for removing removes said contaminants from the water.

Claim 38. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 4, wherein said protrusions are completely contained within said compartment.

Claim 39. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 1, wherein said means for removing comprises:

- a wall defining a periphery of said means for removing, said wall also defining a reservoir for temporarily holding said liquid;

- a filter disposed at the bottom of said reservoir, through which said liquid flows;

- a plurality of outwardly extending protrusions adapted to be releasably supported upon said wall member so that said outwardly extending protrusions are completely contained within said compartment.

Claim 40. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 39, wherein said filter is disposed solely at the bottom of said reservoir.

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Claim 41. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 39, wherein said reservoir is cylindrical in shape.

Claim 42. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 39, wherein said means for removing, including said protrusions, is completely contained within said compartment.

Claim 43. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 4, wherein said means for removing, including said protrusions, is completely contained within said compartment.

Claim 44. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 4, wherein said means for removing is horizontally stabilized within said compartment by said protrusions at a position remote from the top of the compartment and from said ingredients.

Claim 45. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 5, wherein said protrusions are sufficiently flexible so that said protrusions pivot with respect to said removing means while engaging an inside wall of said compartment, so that said removing means is received entirely within said compartment, and out of contact with said ingredients.

Claim 46. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 8, wherein said filtration medium comprises a substrate having a surface fused to a mixture of adsorbent particles and binder particles, and binder particles fusing at least a portion of said adsorbent particles to each other.